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October 23, 2025

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The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Senate Judiciary
Committee 224 Dirksen Senate
Office Building Washington, DC
20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary
Committee 224 Dirksen Senate
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The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman, House Judiciary
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The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member, House Judiciary
Committee 2141 Rayburn House
Office Building Washington, DC
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Brian Kane

Executive Director

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, Chairman Jordan, and
Ranking Member Raskin:

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We are a bipartisan group of former state attorneys general. Some of us
are also former members of the judiciary or former federal prosecutors.
We write to emphasize the urgent need for enhanced judicial security.

The threats against judges are real. And, tragically, in far too many cases,
threats against the judiciary have resulted in actual violence against
judges and their families. The problem is so acute that more and more
judges, who typically avoid speaking outside the courtroom, are publicly
sounding the alarm. They are recounting their harrowing experiences with
threats and violence against themselves and their loved ones.

According to information released by the National Judicial College in June
of 2024, "serious threats to federal judges have doubled since 2021, a
pattern also seen at the state court level. There have been multiple high-
profile physical attacks on judges and their families, including homicides,
as well as a barrage of threats sent directly to judges or posted on social
media."

The U.S. Marshals Service, the members of which answer the call of duty every day, reports that in fiscal year 2024, it investigated 822 threats and potential threats against judges and others whom it protects. In addition to judges, the Marshals Service protects federal prosecutors and members of the public who visit or work in federal courthouses throughout the country.

These disturbing numbers cannot continue without inflicting irreparable harm to the judiciary. We depend on judges to administer justice fairly and independently, free of outside influences. Threats – or worse yet, physical attacks on judges and their families – constitute a direct assault on the rule of law.

We do not suggest that judges should be immune from all criticism or scrutiny; there are appropriate legal channels for such commentary and review. We say instead that when criticism or scrutiny rises to the level of threats, intimidation or actual violence, such conduct severely disrupts the functioning of the judiciary. When that happens, we all suffer.

We call on you, as our national leaders and guardians of the Constitution, to allocate additional resources, in the form of increased appropriations and personnel, that will address the current threat level against judges. We urge you to do so without delay.

We encourage the Congress to include funding language in the next appropriations bill, presumably a continuing resolution, to significantly increase funding for judicial branch security. In the proposed continuing resolution, H.R. 5371, *Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026*, the House provides an additional \$28 million for upgraded Supreme Court Justice security and specifically includes motor vehicles.

As proposed, Section 136 of H.R. 5371 says:

In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101 for "The Judiciary–Supreme Court of the United States–Salaries and Expenses", there is appropriated \$28,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended, for the protection of the Supreme Court Justices, including the purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344, to be expended as the Chief Justice may approve.

The proposal states this additional funding for judicial security is limited to the Supreme Court. We see that money as well spent, and we agree that the members of the nation's highest court need additional security. But the need simply does not end there. We encourage the Congress to fund the additional protection of all Article III judges, court personnel, and court houses. We respectfully ask Congress to ardently study and develop a spending plan to increase the safety and security of the federal judiciary.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue.

Respectfully,

Jon Bruning and Dustin McDaniel, SAGE Co-Chairs

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